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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

KALIDASA

MASTER POET AND DRAMATIST

Vol 600 | ₹ 90

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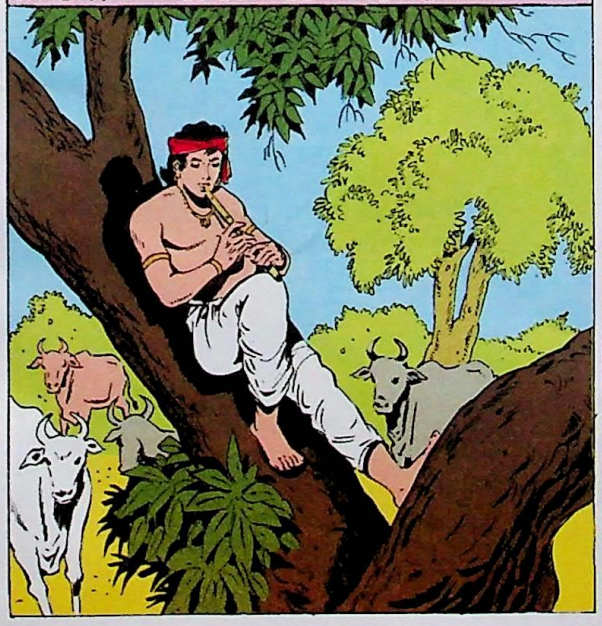
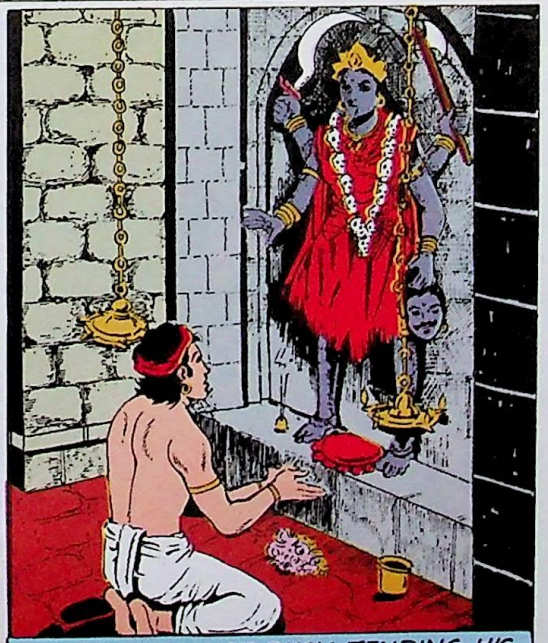
KALIDASA

KALIDASA, ONE OF THE GREATEST POETS IN THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN, WAS DENIED THE CLASSICAL SANSKRIT EDUCATION USUALLY GIVEN TO BRAHMAN BOYS. HE LOST HIS PARENTS WHEN HE WAS BARELY FIVE YEARS OLD AND WAS BROUGHT UP BY A KIND-HEARTED BUT UNLETTERED COWHERD. KALIDASA HELPED HIS FOSTER-FATHER BY LOOKING AFTER HIS CATTLE.

FED ON A DIET OF MILK, CURDS AND BUTTER, KALIDASA GREW INTO A WELL-BUILT, HANDSOME YOUTH. BUT HE WAS AN UNEDUCATED RUSTIC.





WHEN HE WAS NOT BUSY TENDING HIS COWS, HE WAS TO BE FOUND AT THE VILLAGE TEMPLE DEDICATED TO KALI. THIS EARNED HIM THE NAME, 'KALIDASA'.

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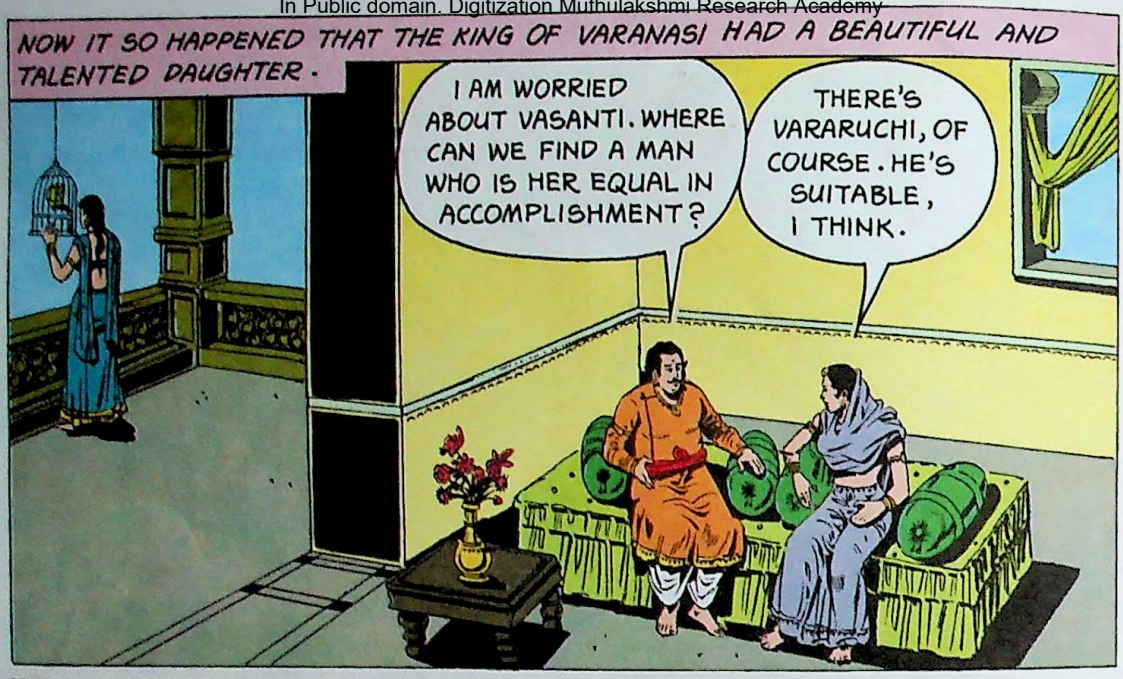

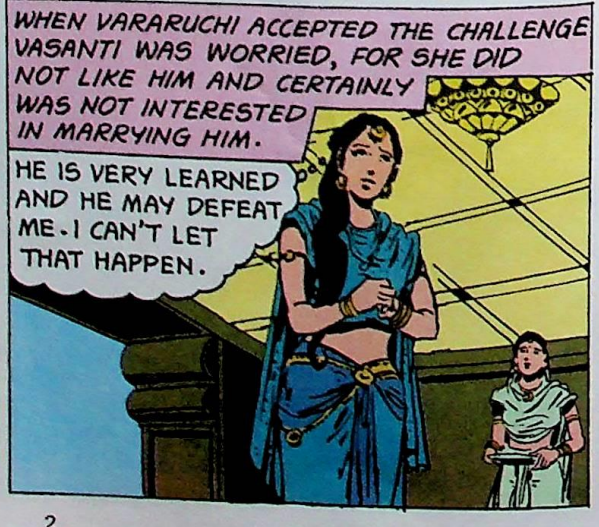

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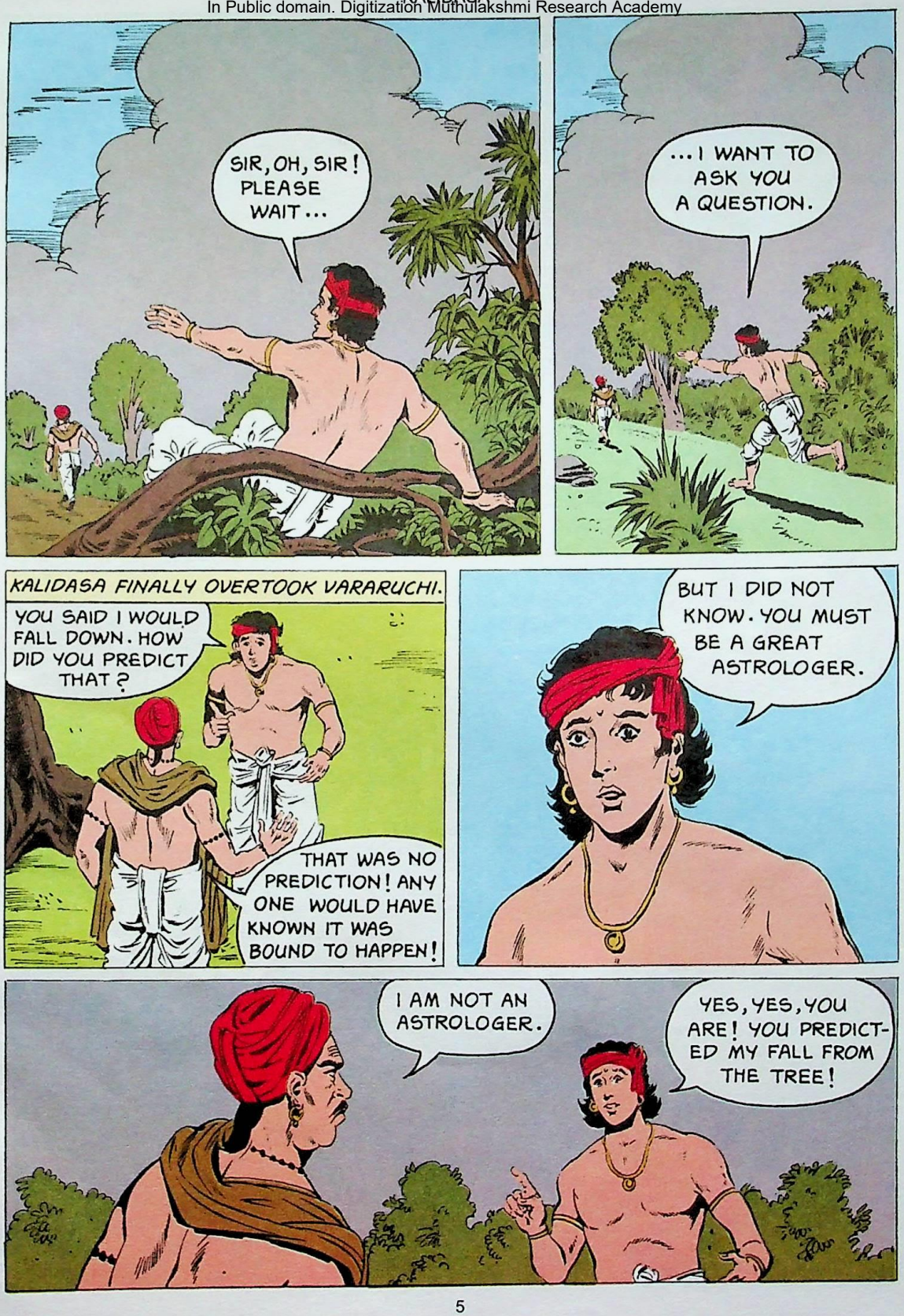

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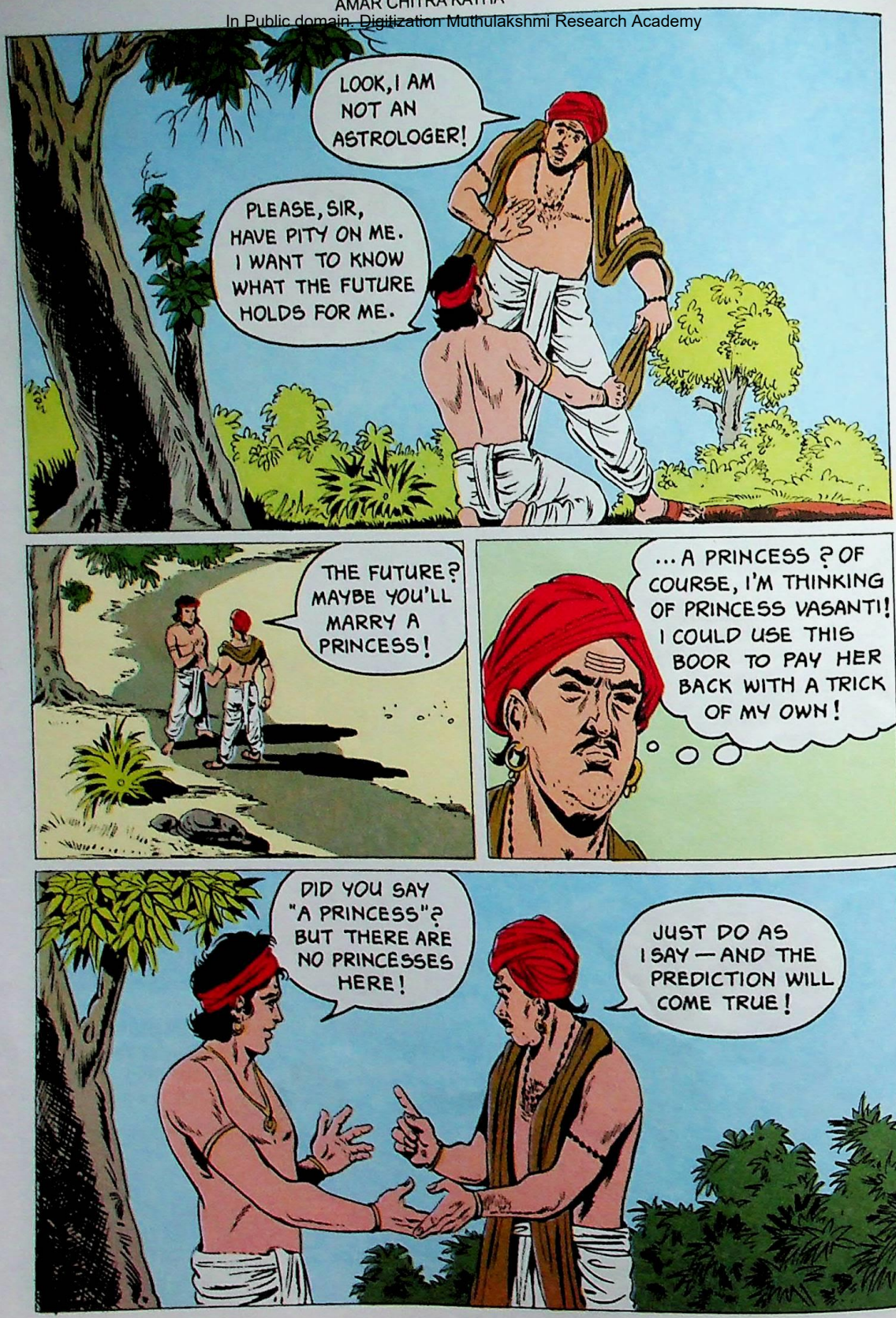

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VARARUCHI TOOK KALIDASA TO HIS HOUSE AND MADE HIM CHANGE INTO THE ATTIRE OF A SCHOLAR.

AH! NOW YOU LOOK LIKE A PANDIT. YOU'LL BE A GREAT SUCCESS AT THE PALACE! HERE, HOLD THIS BASKET OF FLOWERS.

VARARUCHI AND KALIDASA MADE THEIR WAY TO THE PALACE.

NOW, DON'T FORGET — WHEN YOU SEE THE KING, SHOWER FLOWERS ON HIM WHILE UTTERING THE BLESSING, "OM SWASTI".

I'LL DO EXACTLY AS YOU SAY.

AT THE PALACE —

THERE'S THE KING!

RIGHT, FIRST I MUST SHOWER FLOWERS ON THE KING; THEN I MUST SAY...

...SAY... SAY WHAT? US-SWATRI? U-SHATRA? OH, I'VE GOT IT...

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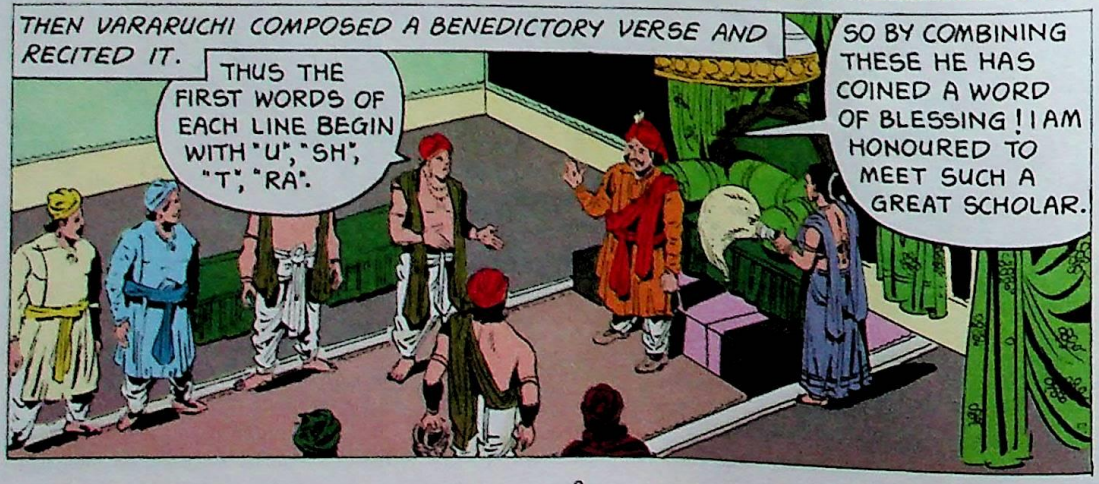

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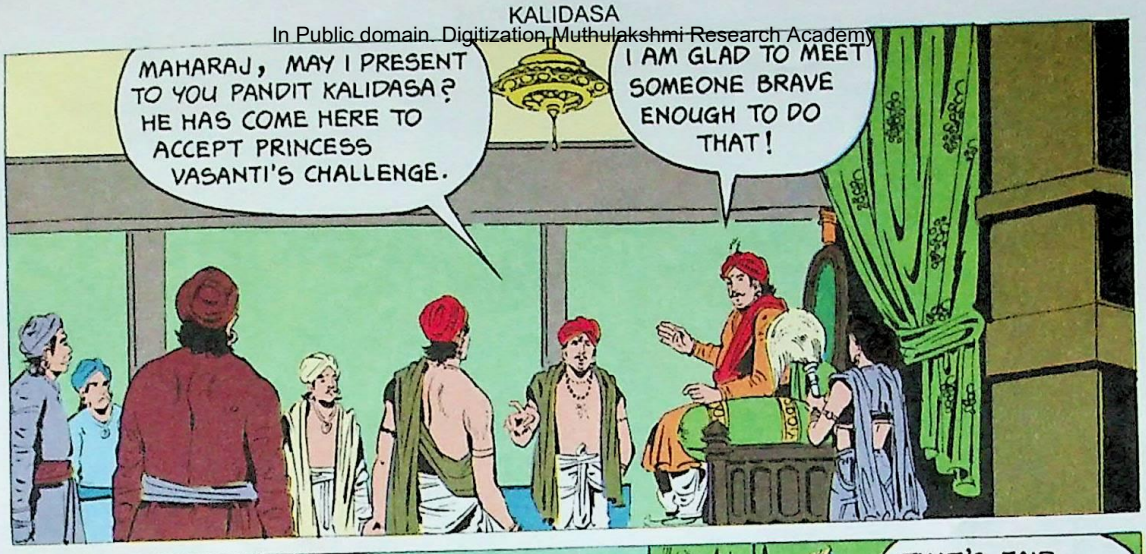

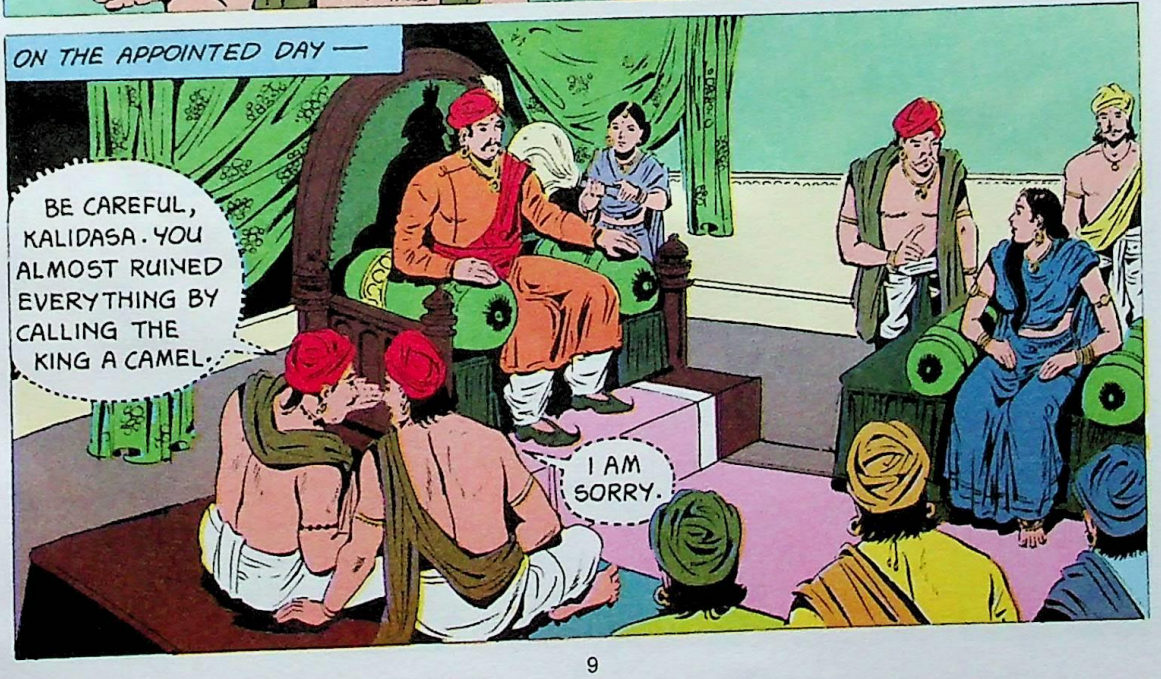

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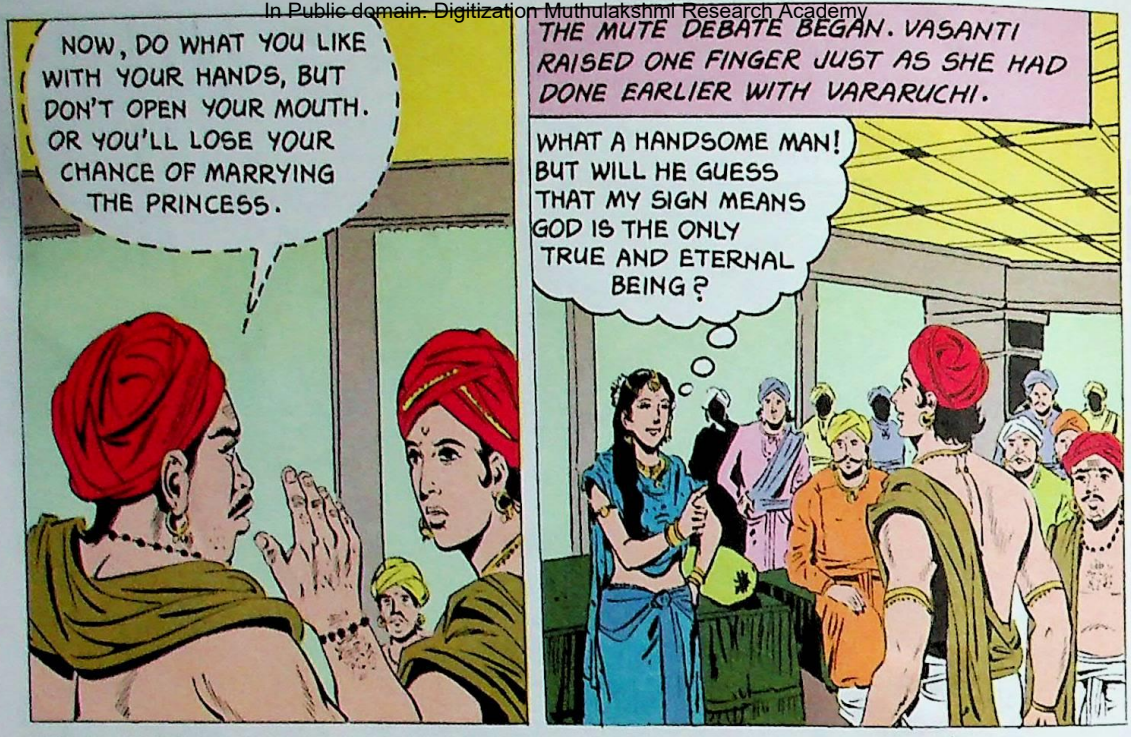

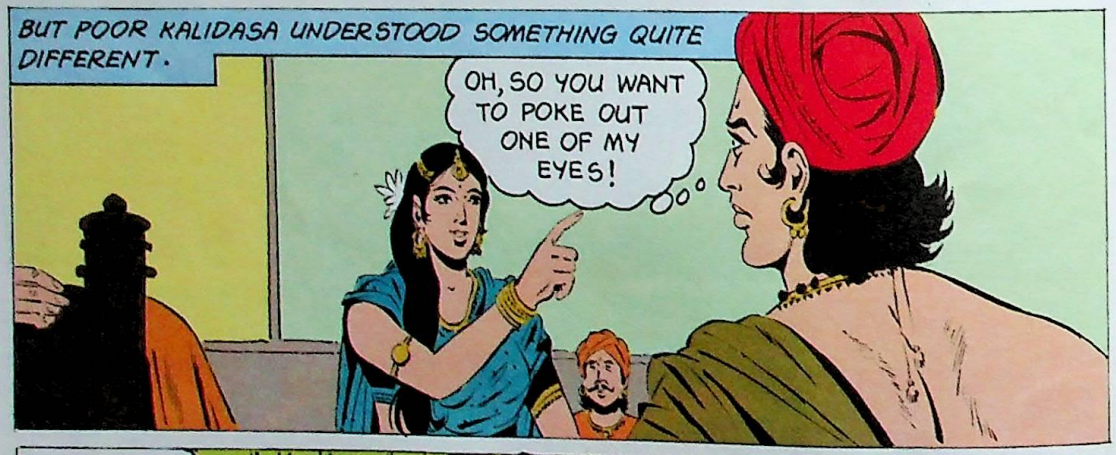

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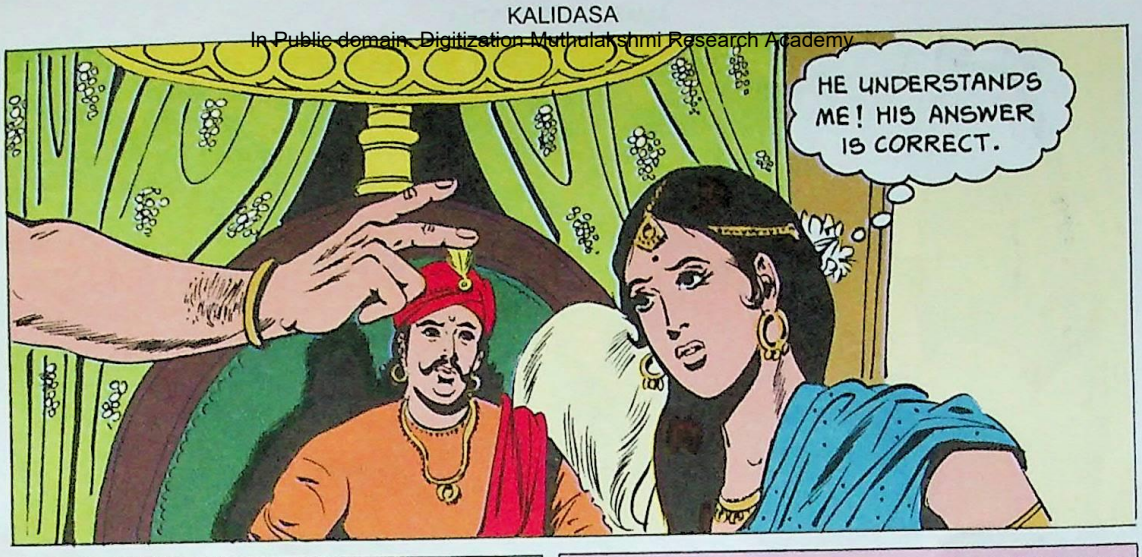

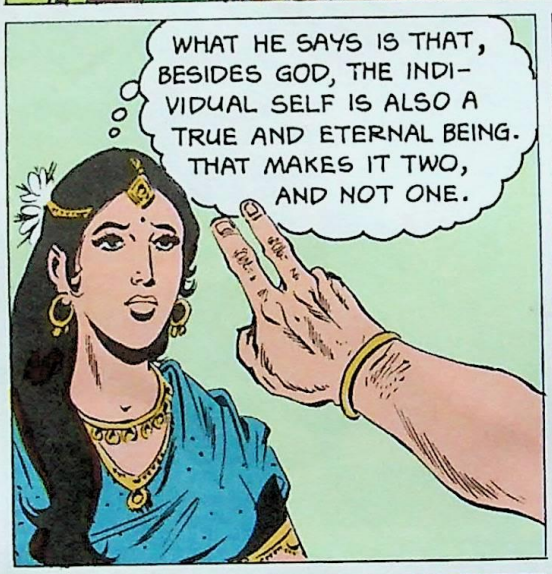

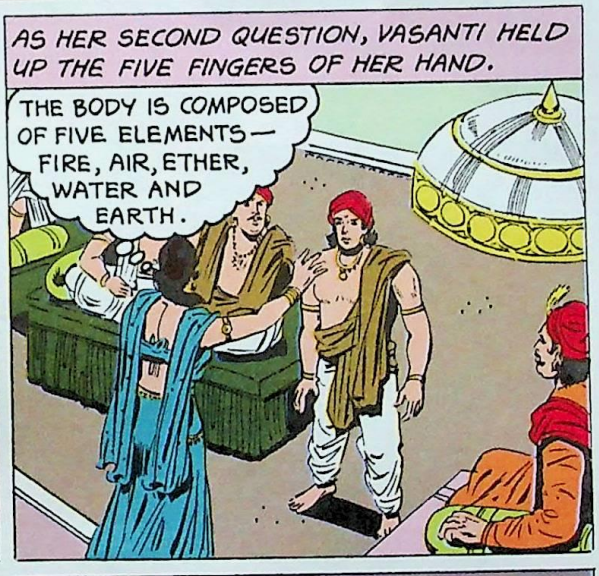

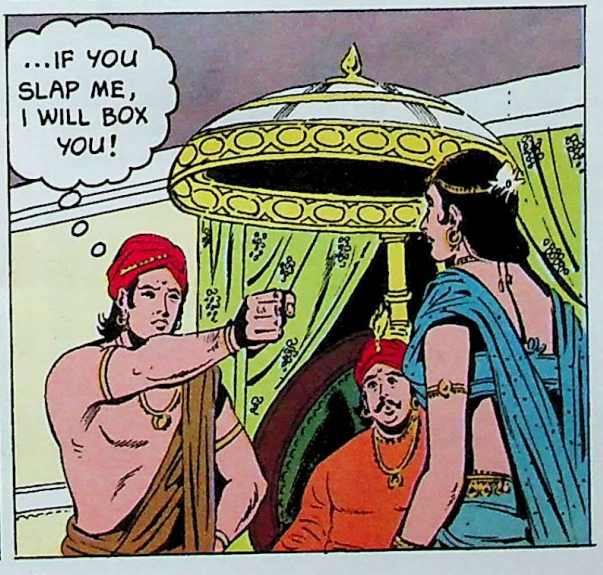

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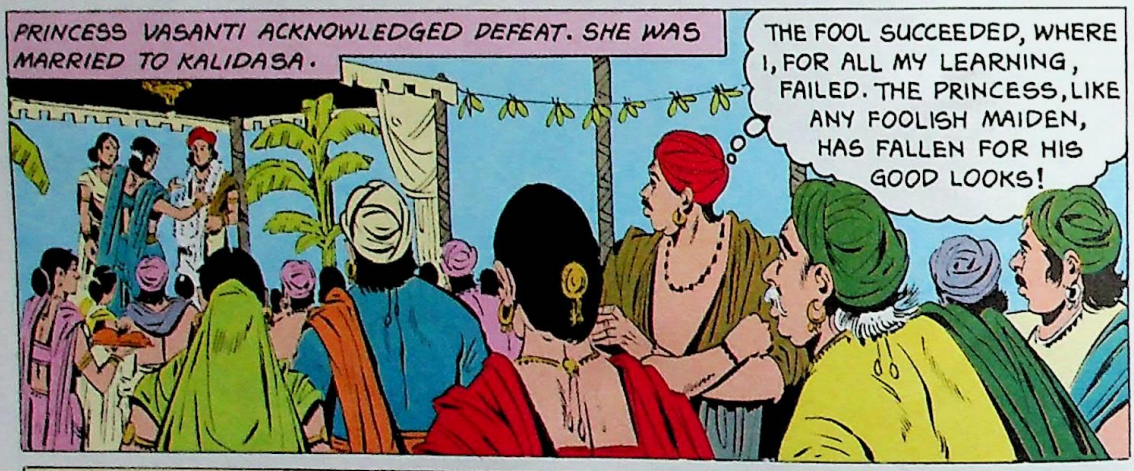

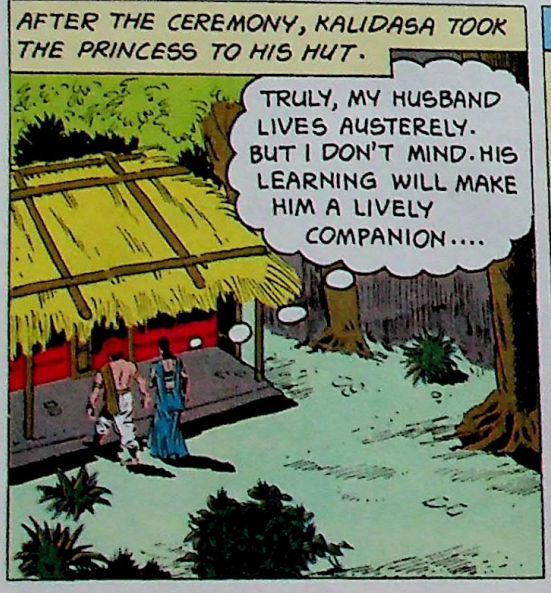

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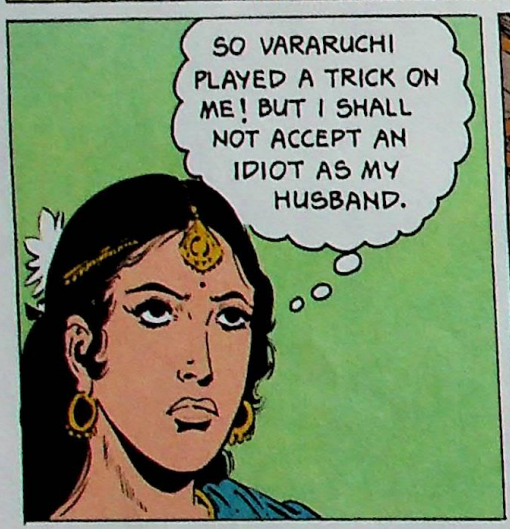

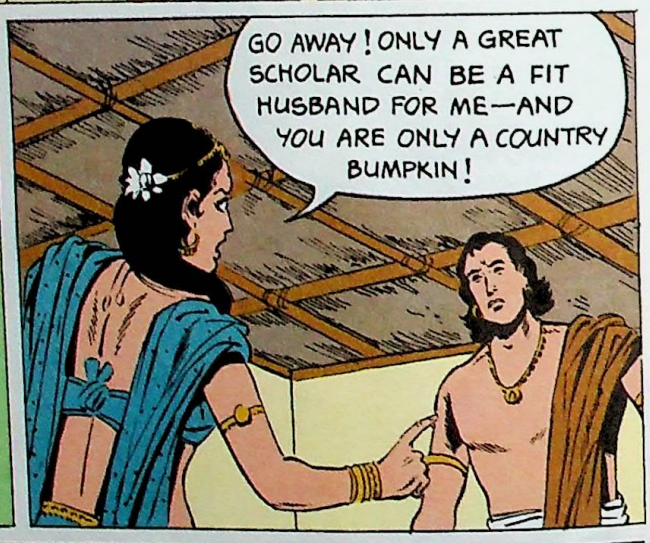

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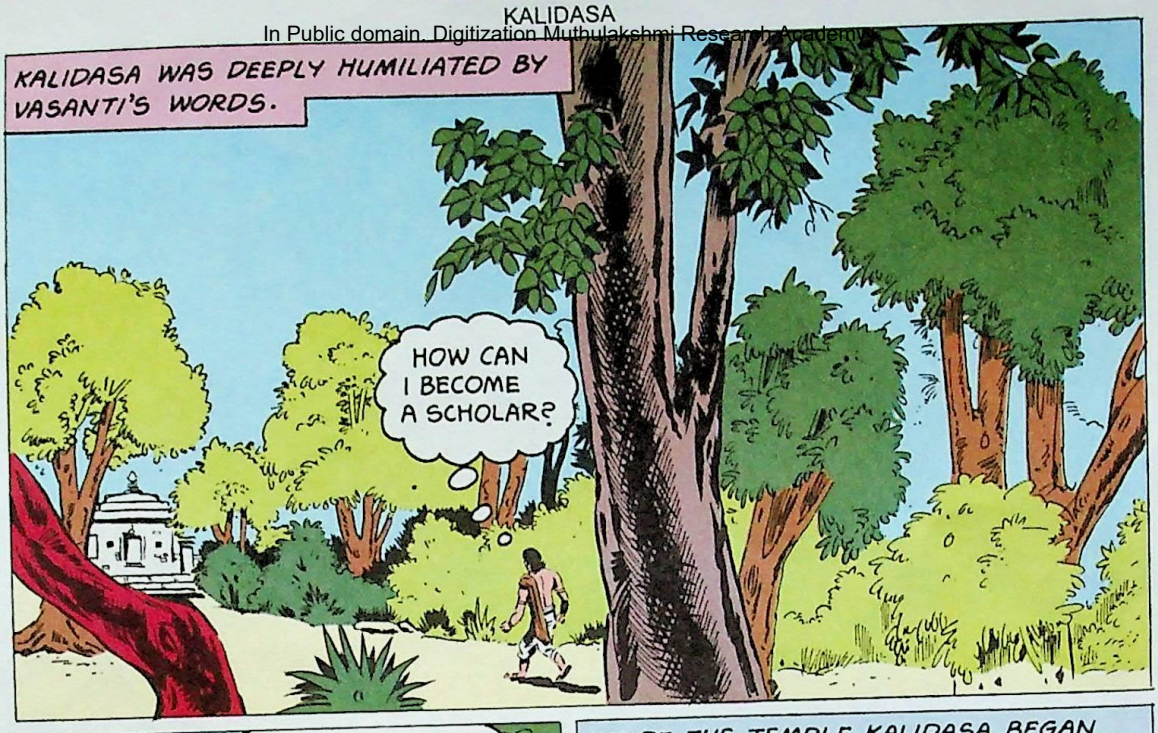

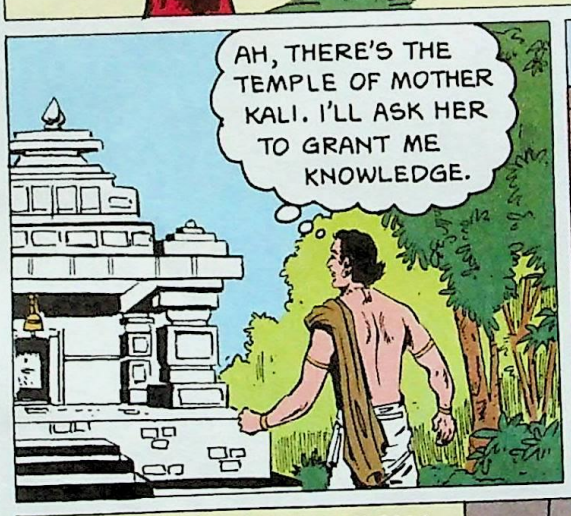

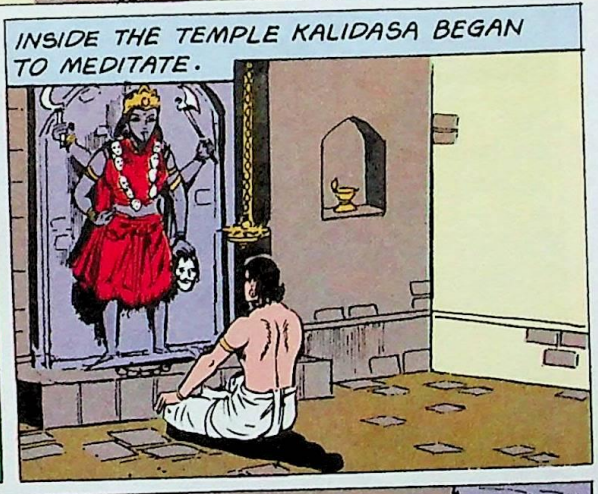

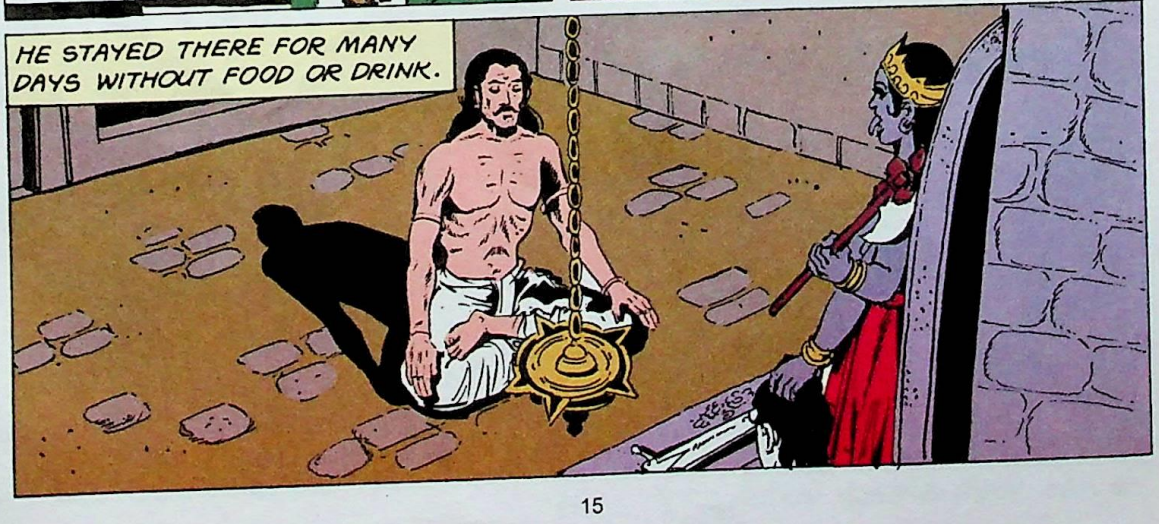

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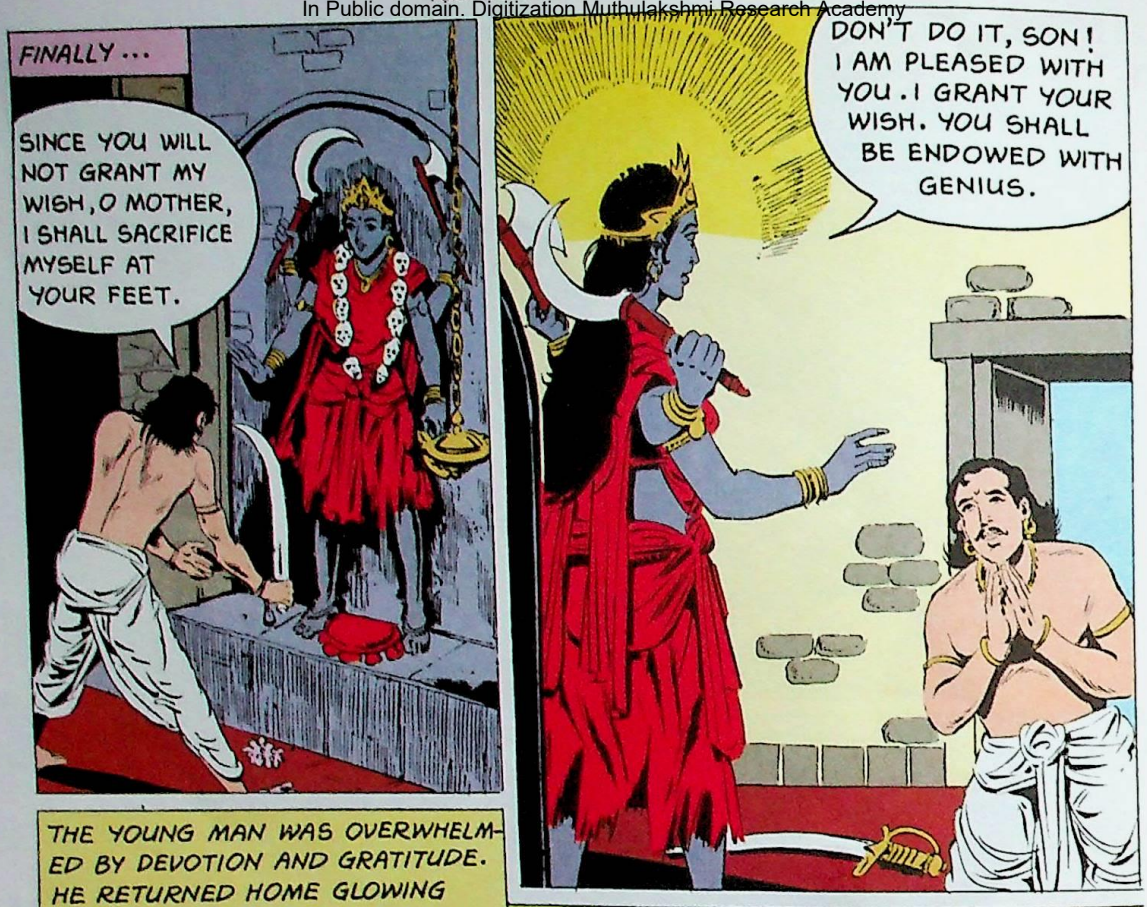

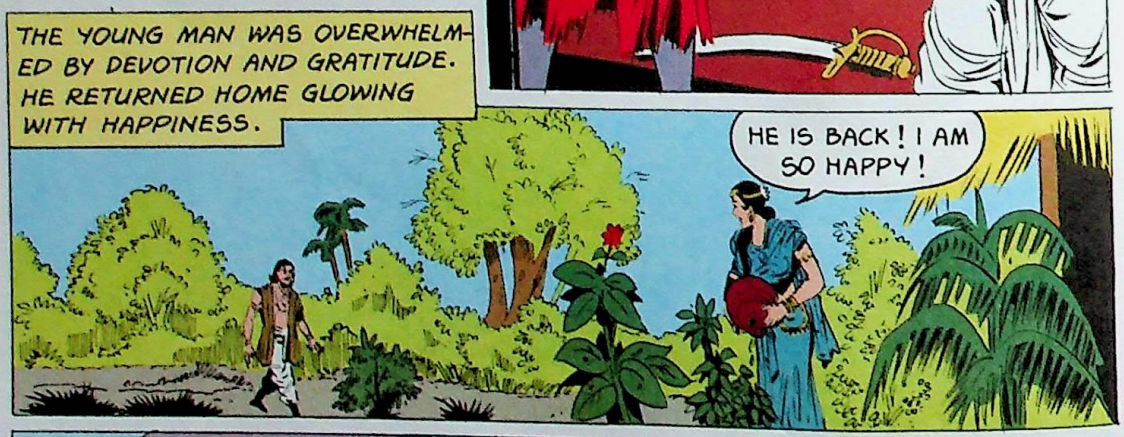

* HAS YOUR SPEECH IMPROVED ?

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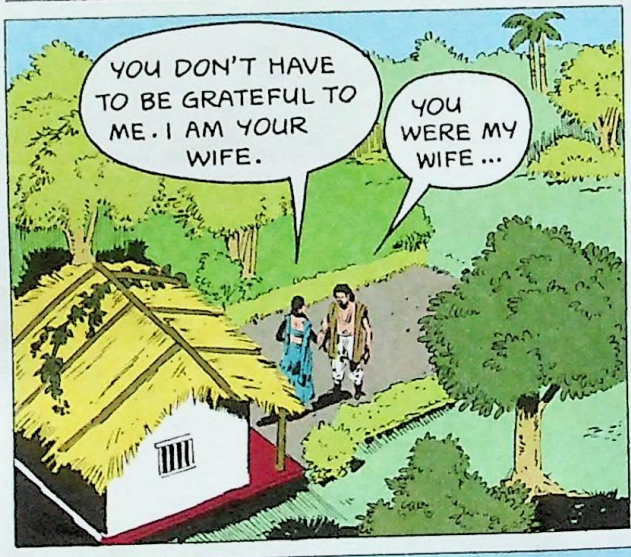
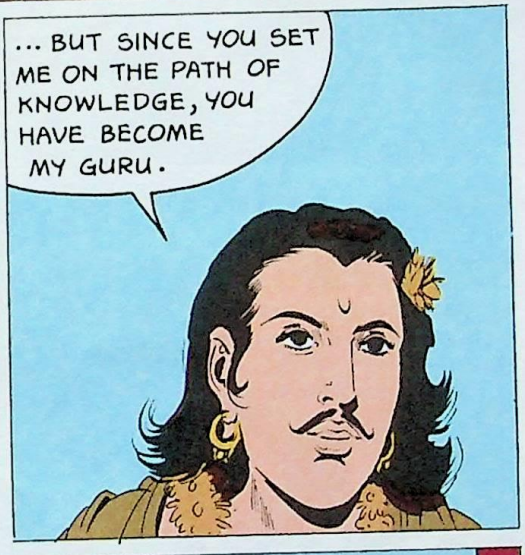
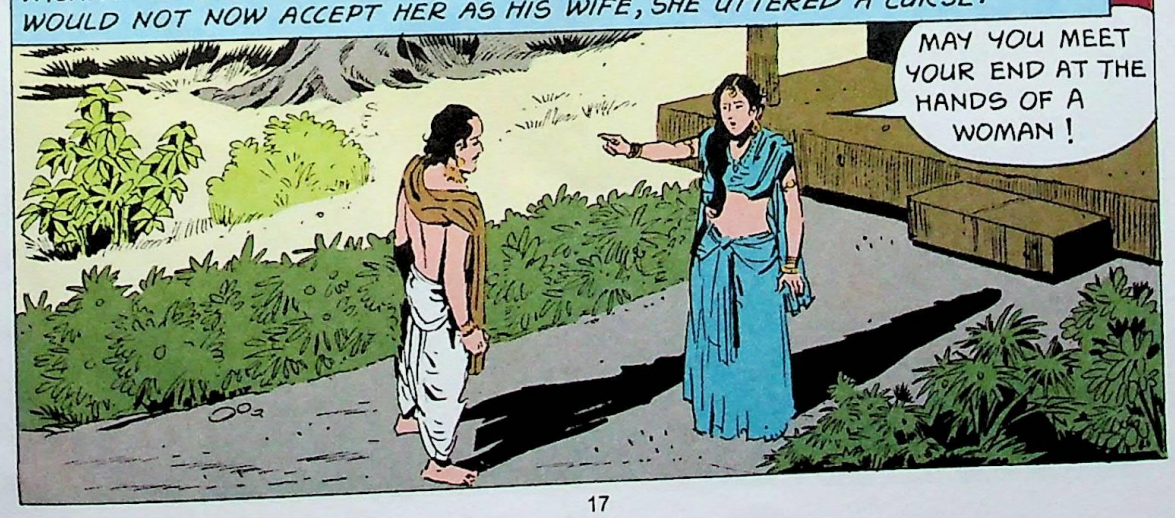




VASANTI WAS SHOCKED AND ENRAGED. WHEN SHE FOUND THAT KALIDASA WOULD NOT NOW ACCEPT HER AS HIS WIFE, SHE UTTERED A CURSE.



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AFTER THIS KALIDASA LED THE LIFE OF A WANDERER. SURROUNDED BY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE, HE WAS MOVED TO WRITE POETRY IN SANSKRIT, WHICH HE HAD BY NOW MASTERED.

SPILLING ITS RICHNESS EVERYWHERE SPRING CARESSES THE WATERS OF THE POOLS, AND COAXES THE LILY-BUDS TO EMERGE UNSCATHED.

CLOUDS CLASH AND THUNDER RESOUNDS LIKE THE BEAT OF DRUMS. INDRA'S COLOURFUL BOW GLITTERS ACROSS THE SKY WHILE THE LIGHTNING SERVES FOR A STRING.

FROM TIME TO TIME THE POET STOPPED AT VARIOUS COURTS ON THE WAY. BUT HIS FAVOURITE WAS THE COURT OF KING BHOJA AT DHARA. HE WAS A GREAT PATRON OF ART AND LITERATURE. ONE DAY —

CAN ANYONE COMPOSE A VERSE ENDING WITH "TAATAM, TATAM, TAM, TATATAM, TATAM, TAH"?

ALL THE SCHOLARS PRESENT AT COURT WERE PERPLEXED.

WHO CAN COMPOSE A POEM WITH MEANING-LESS WORDS?

BUT KALIDASA, A READY WIT, COULD.

AS THE QUEEN CLIMBED THE STAIRS TO MEET KING BHOJA ...

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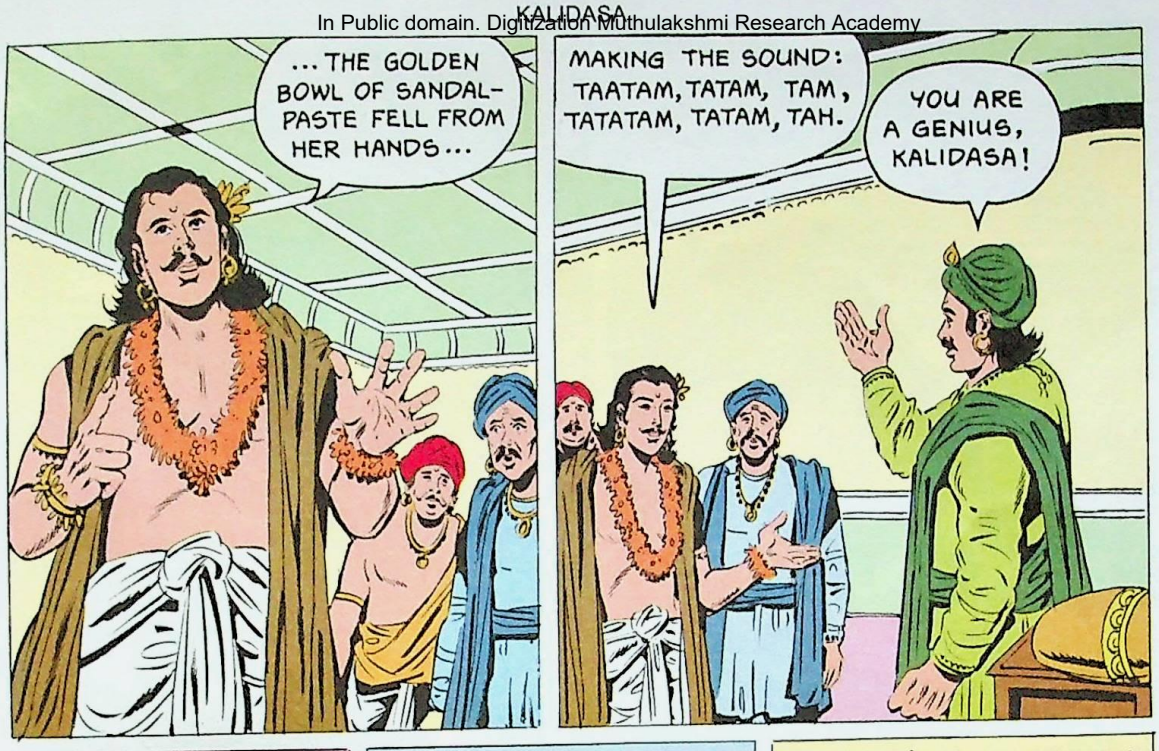

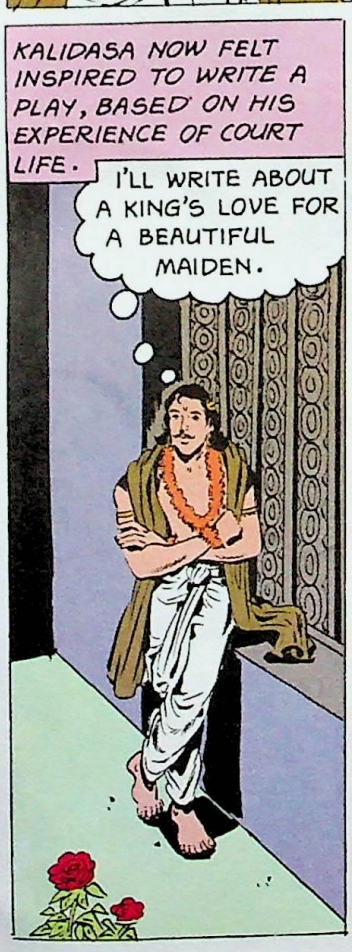

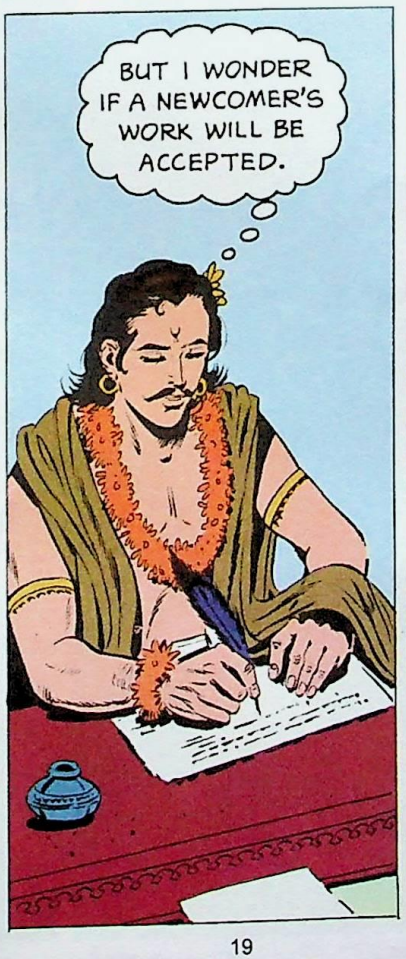

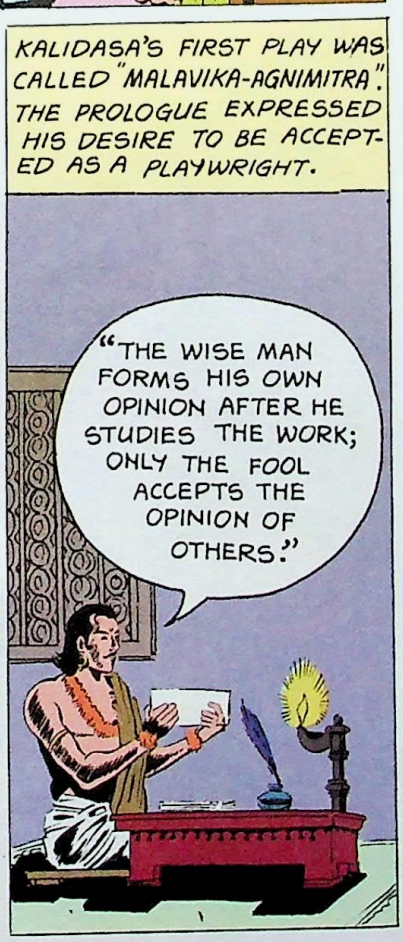

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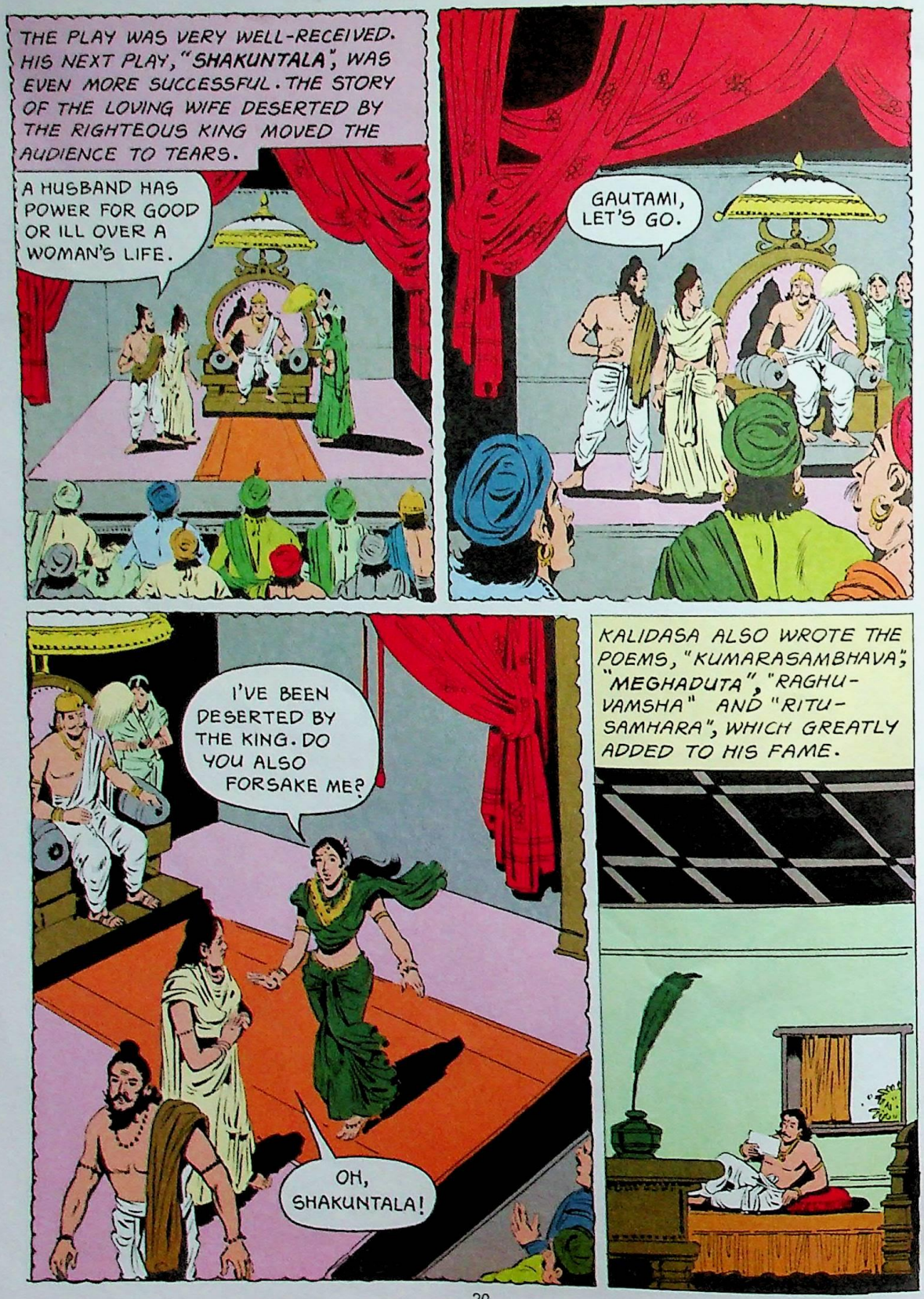

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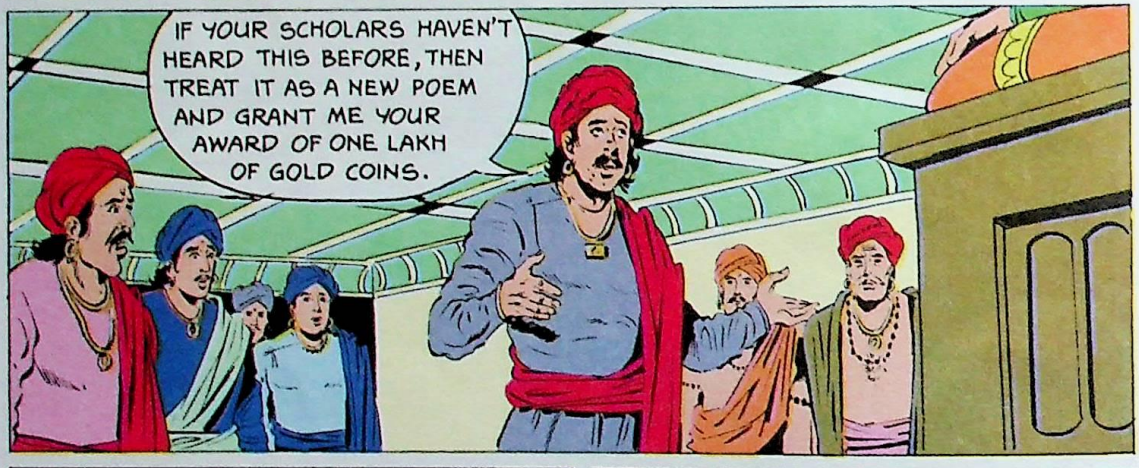

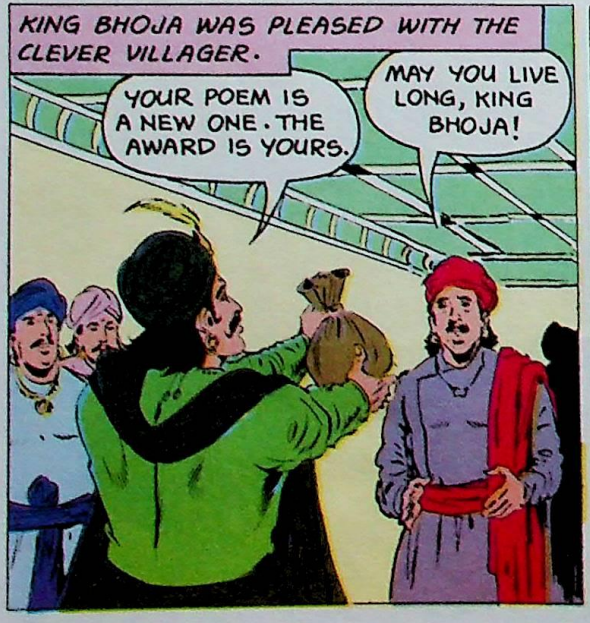

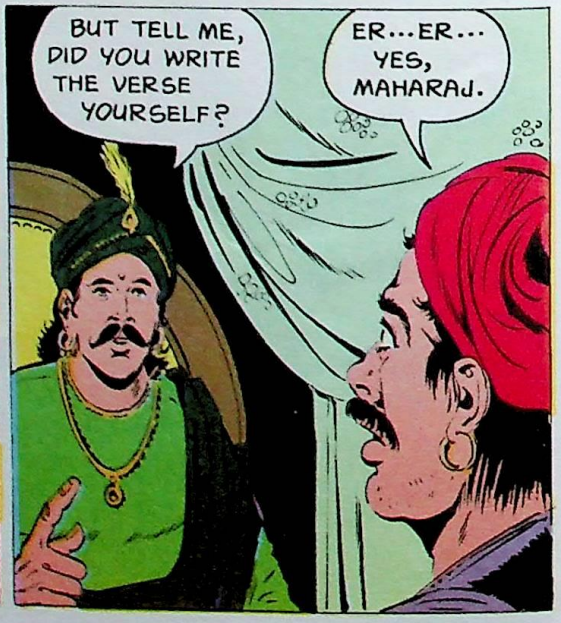

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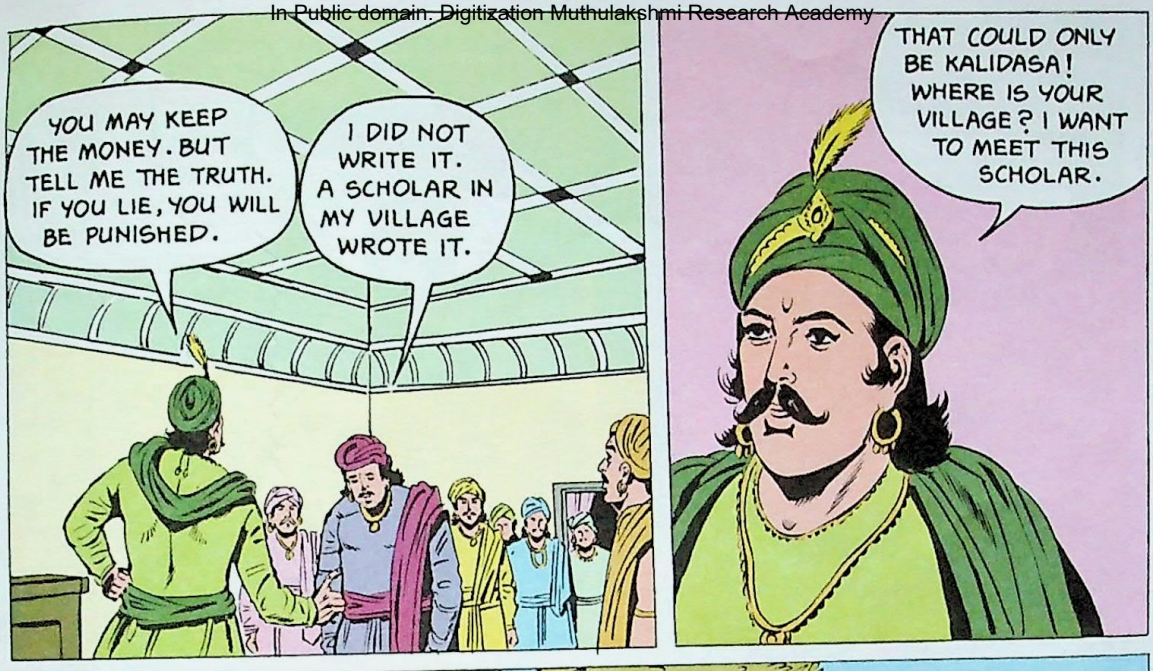

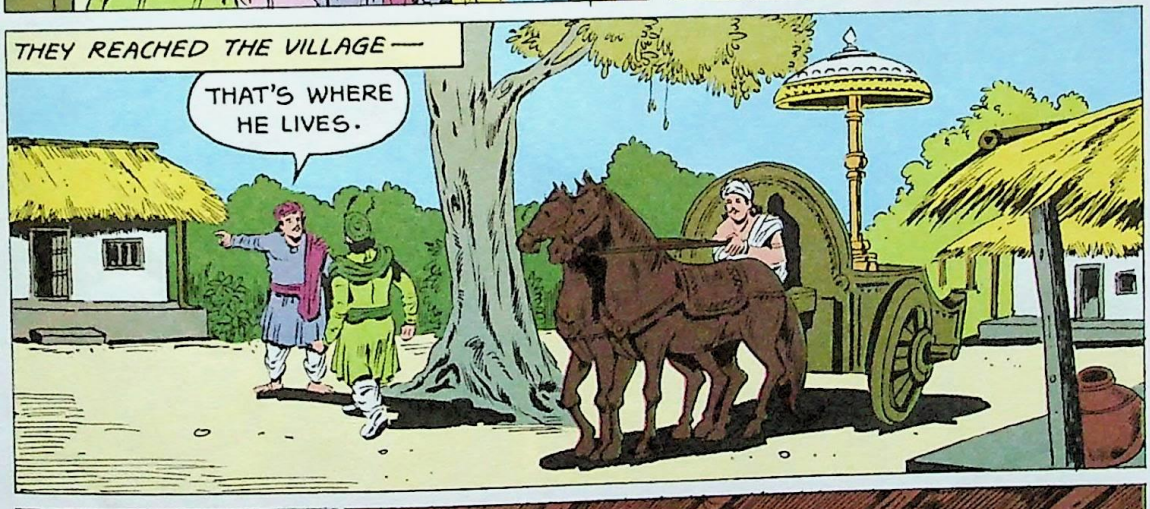

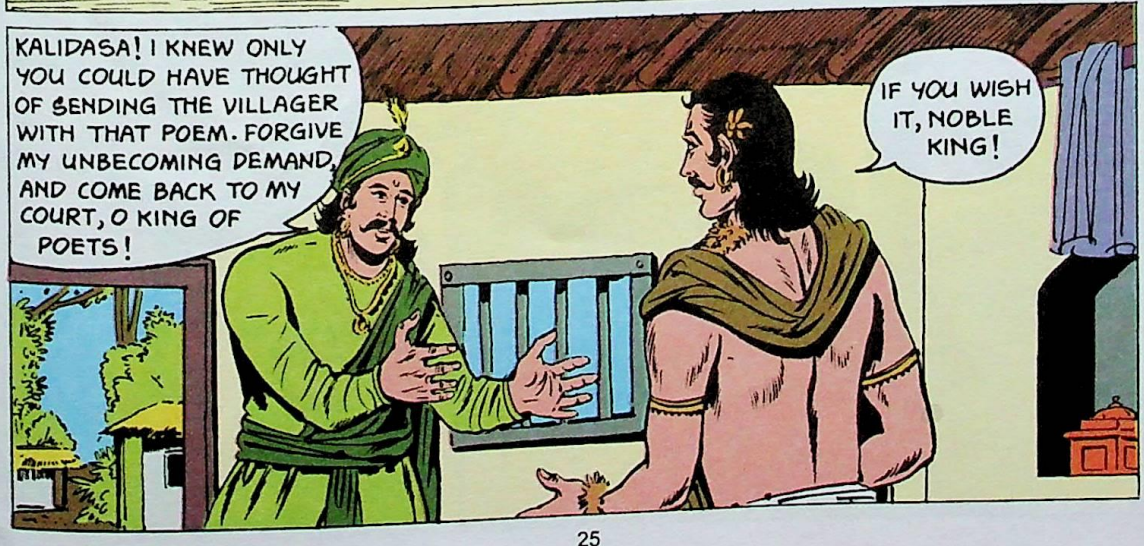

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KALIDASA WAS SO OVERWHELMED, HIS GRIEF TOOK THE FORM OF VERSE.

THE CITY OF DHARA HAS LOST ITS FOUNDATIONS,
SARASWATI, THE GODDESS OF LEARNING, HAS LOST HER SUPPORT,
THE SCHOLARS HAVE LOST THEIR PATRON,
FOR KING BHOJA HAS DEPARTED TO HEAVEN.

AT LAST — A POEM WHICH PRAISES ME! KALIDASA, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET YOU TO WRITE ONE!

KALIDASA NOW RECOGNISED THE KING. SO HE MADE MINOR CHANGES IN HIS VERSE —

THE CITY OF DHARA HAS STRONG FOUNDATIONS,
SARASWATI IS WELL SUPPORTED.
THE SCHOLARS HAVE THEIR PATRON
WHILE KING BHOJA DWELLS ON THIS EARTH.

SOME TIME LATER, AFTER ANOTHER QUARREL WITH KING BHOJA, KALIDASA SET SAIL FOR LANKA.

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WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Aruni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappan
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrahasa
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
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Kalidasa, who lived some time in the middle of the 4th and early 5th centuries A.D., has left no account of his life. According to popular legends, he owed his ingenuity as much to Goddess Kali's blessings as to his own talents.

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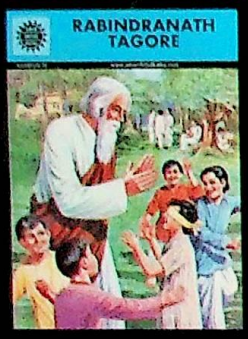

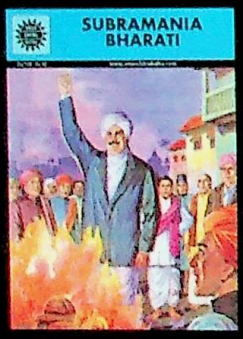

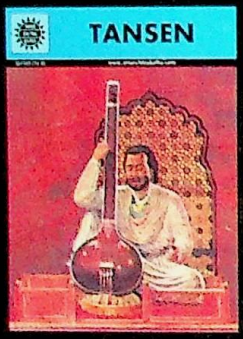

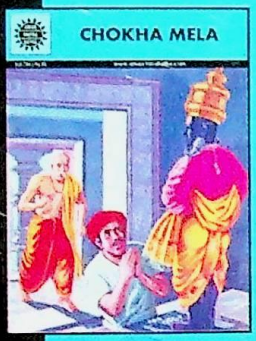

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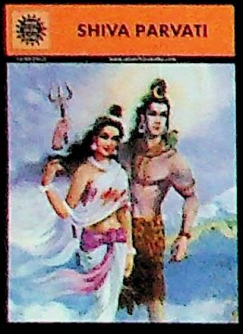

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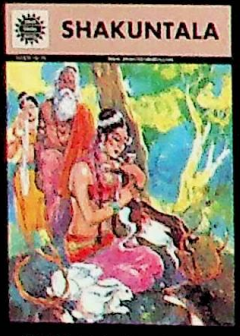

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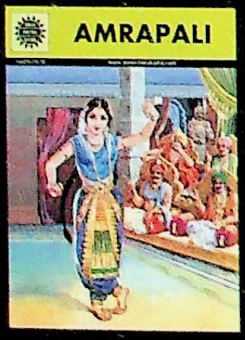

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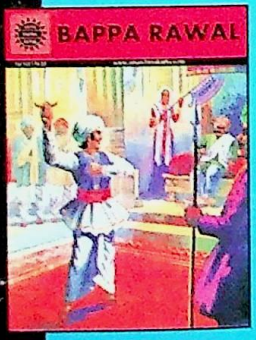

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